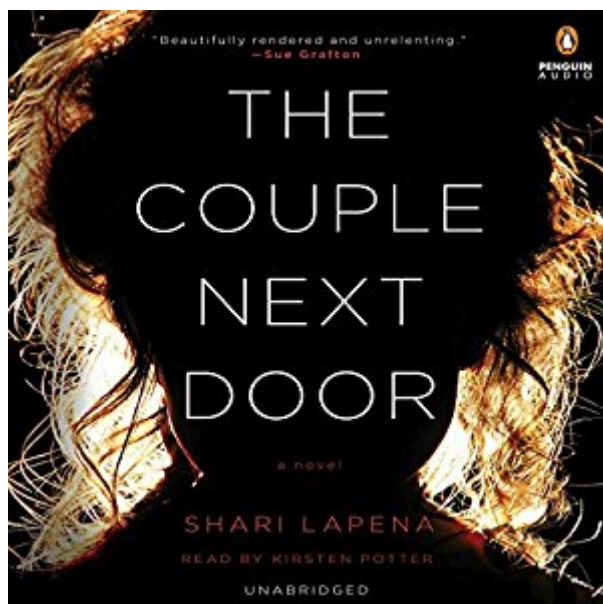


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# The Couple Next Door: A Novel



## Synopsis

How well do you know the couple next door? Or your husband? Or even yourself? People are capable of almost anything.... A domestic suspense debut about a young couple and their apparently friendly neighbors - a twisty roller-coaster ride of lies, betrayal, and the secrets between husbands and wives. Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all - a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. Suspicion immediately focuses on the parents. But the truth is a much more complicated story. Inside the curtained house, an unsettling account of what actually happened unfolds. Detective Rasbach knows that the panicked couple is hiding something. Both Anne and Marco soon discover that the other is keeping secrets - secrets they've kept for years. What follows is the nerve-racking unraveling of a family, a chilling tale of deception, duplicity, and unfaithfulness that will keep you breathless until the final shocking twist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Oh my goodness, this book just blew me away! Just when I thought I'd worked it all out nicely - BAM - all change! So, with their babysitter cancelling on them, Anne and Marco leave their baby, Cora, at home whilst they "pop" next door for a dinner party. It'll be fine - they have the baby monitor with them and they go to check on her every half hour and they're only next door. What can possibly go wrong? Quite simply, they arrive home to find the front door open and the baby gone. Anne goes to pieces, Marco freezes, Anne recovers and the police are called. It is then up to Detective Rasbach

to try and piece together what actually happened that night. Did the parents cover up, is one or both of them responsible, is it a third party and if so, was it an opportunistic crime or meticulously planned. With most of the suspects being inconsistent with their stories will Rasbach be able to cut through the noise, work out truth from lies, and bring the case to a close? I loved this book. It grabbed my attention from the very first page, held on tight and wouldn't let me go until the very last. I was completely enthralled by all the twists and turns, secrets and lies and some delicious family dynamics specifically between Marco and his in-laws. Characters were especially well defined and thus easy to connect to / emote with although, truth be told, apart from Rasbach, I didn't really like any of them! Plotting was excellent and very well executed. As with most books of this genre, it gets a bit convoluted, but it was easy to follow, made sense and so I never got lost. Pacing was also excellent throughout.

This book. OMG. THIS BOOK!!! In a reading slump? Get this book. Read it. Devour it. You won't want to let go. It's that gripping. In fact, publishing folks are calling this genre 'grip-lit,' and it's no wonder. Women writers are churning out amazing domestic psych thrillers--and I'm not exactly sure why that is, but they know the market--the universal, primal fear women feel for their loved ones, with commentary on contemporary times involving unreliable, fascinating narrators (which I happen to love!), along with the moral responsibilities of being the 'perfect' parent/spouse/professional, all of which we strive for in today's culture. *THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR* is relentlessly paced, plotted, and completely chilling; it pulled me in from page one and wouldn't let go, I simply had to find out what happened to baby Cora. Parents Anne and Marcos Conti get an invitation to attend a small dinner party with next-door neighbors, Cynthia and Graham Stillwell. They share a wall in a brownstone townhouse complex and are considered friends. But the sitter cancels at the last minute and the couple next door specifically requested a kid-free evening. Do they go, or don't they? Oh, but they do with the intention of checking on Baby Cora every thirty minutes and taking along the baby monitor to listen to every sleeping sigh. All goes according to clockwork until the tired, drunk parents return home around 1:30a.m. The front door has been left ajar and Baby Cora is no longer in her crib. She's only 6 months old, too young to crawl out of that bed. There is no forced entry. She's gone. Her parents are distraught. III. An investigation is made.

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